

Measurements: 1 ♂: f., 69.2; t., 28; ft., 18. 1 ♀: f., 74; t., 32; ft., 17.5.

Skull.—1 ♂: l., 25.5; zw., 15; cw., 11.8; m^3m^3 , 10.6; $c-m^3$, 11.3; $c-m_3$, 13; ml., 20.4.

Distribution: Pakistan and India.

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the collection of the Indian Museum, Calcutta. Taylor & Francis, London.

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2. OBSERVATION OF HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOUR IN ASIATIC LION *PANTHERA LEO PERSICA*

Homosexual behaviour has been observed in male African lions. (Schaller 1972). There is no record of homosexual behaviour of the females in Africa or India.

I observed homosexual behaviour in two adult lionesses on three occasions, in Raidi & Vaniavav areas in the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary of Western India. Both the lionesses were adult, over 15 years in age. For convenience, I will call them lioness 'A' and lioness 'B'.

These two lionesses were observed mostly together. Lioness 'A' was in estrous and one young male of 5 to 6 years was courting her. One day later lioness 'B' also came into estrous and started following 'A'. The same male started mating with lioness 'A' and their matings continued only for two days. All this time lioness 'B' kept fairly close to the mating couple. Whenever lioness 'B' came closer, the male chased her away. On

the third day of the mating, the male seemed to be tired, and kept resting most of the time, Lioness 'A', apparently not satisfied sexually, continued to present herself to the male and when he did not respond, she went upto him and nudged him with head between his two hindlegs, sometimes even partly lifting him from behind. At this the male would move over to another place.

On the fourth day when lioness 'A' was posturing for the male to mount, lioness 'B' came and mounted her with same actions as that of male including neck biting, growling and later on rolling on its back. Then the females switched positions with lioness 'B' mounting lioness 'A'. This was repeated once on the same day and once on the fifth day. All this time the male was also close, apparently indifferent to the females.

I have not observed homosexual behaviour among Asiatic male lions in Gir.

Schaller (1972), in his study of African lions, has observed homosexual behaviour

only in male lions. Paul Joslin (1973) in his study of Asiatic lions, does not mention having observed homosexual behaviour in lionesses.

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September 1, 1979.

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3. ON THE LONGEVITY OF THE CAT-BEAR OR RED PANDA (*AILURUS FULGENS*) IN CAPTIVITY

Three specimens (one male and two females) were received at the Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad (A.P.) on 30-6-66, 12-2-67 and 24-3-67 from an animal dealer of Delhi.

A female received on 24-3-1967 died on 8-8-79, establishing a longevity of 12 years 4 months 15 days in captivity. The other two specimens had died earlier within 4 years 5 months.

The maximum period of life in captivity for this species recorded in the San Diego Zoological Park namely 12 years and 10 months. One lived for 5 years and 4 months (Mitchell 1911) at the New York Zoological Park for 4 years, 11 months and 9 days (Cran-

dall 1965). Another at the Nandan Kanan Biological Park, Orissa lived for 5 years and 4 months (Acharjyo, pers. comm.). According to Walker *et al.* (1964) only a few of this species adapt themselves sufficiently to survive long in captivity.

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HYDERABAD, A.P.,
December 9, 1980.

MIR GOWHAR ALI KHAN

M. KAMAL NAIDU

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